



**For Immediate Release**

## **First Sino-Japanese Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Workshop was held in Yixing City, PRC**

(Hong Kong, 9 July 2007) The First Sino-Japanese Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (“SOFC”) Workshop, jointly organized by Asia Zirconium Limited (“Asia Zirconium” of the “Company”, stock code: 395), Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, was held on 7-8 July 2007 at the International Hotel in Yixing City, PRC. The Workshop not only provided a platform for academic exchange among the participating organizations but also offered a chance for the zirconium market players to learn more about the overseas production technology and technique in this respect.

SOFC is currently the hottest topic in the world’s new energy development. The United States started research and development of SOFC technology since 20 years ago, whereas Japan had achieved significant progress on this research in the recent 5 years. Zirconium oxide, one of the major materials used in SOFC, is key to the success of the project and is also a determining factor on the commercialization of SOFC. Zirconium oxide is one of the key and strategic products of Asia Zirconium. The Company is jointly running a SOFC research project with Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Shanghai Jiao Tong University and that is the reason why this first Workshop was held at Yixing City, the PRC.

Participants of the Workshop included the old and new chairman of the Japan Fuel Cell Association, experts/professors from over 10 universities/colleges in Japan, as well as specialists from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Asia Zirconium and more than 10 other universities/colleges in the PRC who are all actively involved in fuel cells development projects. Prof. Chen Li Quan, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, presented certain remarkable academic findings in the Workshop.

Moreover, the Workshop had also invited specialists from the United States, Korea, Canada and Singapore to join the discussions on specific topics. Over 30 specialists and experts had reported their latest academic findings in this area and responded to questions raised by the Workshop participants. The Workshop was considered as a great success in promoting the research and development of SOFC.

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